

CC Docket ND. 90-571
and
CC Docket ND. 98-67

ORIGINAL

Ms. Magalie Salas
Office of the Secretary of the FCC
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Subject: "EX PARTE COMMENT FOR DOCKET NUMBER 90-
571 on NECA FUNDS" and "EX PARTE COMMENT TO
DOCKET NUMBER 98-67 ON TRS/STS OUTREACH"

Dear Ms Salas:

PROVIDING SPEECH TO SPEECH OUTREACH

I live in Missouri and I urge the Missouri PUC to make telephones accessible to more people with speech disabilities by providing an effective STS outreach service.

SUCCESES

In California, people with speech disabilities have dramatically improved their lives because of STS. One example is Dr. Robert Aber who experienced great growth in his psychology practice once he was able to communicate with clients over STS. Writer Pam Hoye advanced her writing career substantially using STS to gather facts for articles. Dr Bob Segalman became successful as a social activist helping people with speech disabilities once he began using STS. STS potentially answers the telecommunications needs of thousands of people.

THE NEED FOR STS OUTREACH

In addition to providing STS itself, providing outreach appropriate to people with speech disabilities is an essential part of access. When people with speech disabilities have appropriate training to

MAY 24 2001

CIB / CIND

No. of Copies rec'd 011
List A B C D E

use STS, they become more independent, participate more in the community, get jobs etc. The new relay regulations require states and relay providers to contract such that relay is accessible to users with speech disabilities.

If the Missouri PUC contracts for STS without appropriate outreach, call volumes will be extremely low. Call volumes could rise substantially with an extensive STS outreach service tailored to people with speech disabilities. Failure to provide appropriate outreach for STS means Missouri residents with speech disabilities will not enter the mainstream of life.

Because I want this independence for people with speech disabilities in Missouri, I strongly urge you to provide an STS outreach service similar to the very successful STS intensive outreach services in California, Minnesota and Maryland.

FUNDING STS OUTREACH

Based on Minnesota's budgetary experience, such a service may cost \$140,000.00 annually based on Missouri's population.. Many states have sufficient surcharge money to fund a STS outreach service without difficulty. Vocational rehabilitation client services money may be available to teach people to use STS as it fosters independence and makes people job ready.

CONCLUSION

A large proportion of people with speech disabilities have other disabilities as well; this makes it very difficult for them to advocate for themselves. Therefore, it is necessary for the rest of us to insure that services like STS outreach are adequately provided for.

Again, I strongly urge the Missouri PUC to budget for an effective STS outreach service with an annual budget of about \$140,000.00.

Sincerely,



Steve Mahler
1191 Whitmoor Drive
St. Charles, Missouri 63304

5-16-2001

cc: Disability Rights Office
Consumer Information Bureau
Federal Communications Commission, Room 6C-447
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

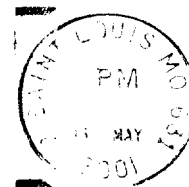
cc: Tom Solt
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

cc: Michael B. Fingerhut, General Attorney
Sprint Corporation
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20004

cc: Kenneth Goulston, Relay Account Manager
Sprint Telecommunications Company
500-108th Ave, Suite #800
Bellevue, WA 98004

A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.
INVESTMENTS SINCE 1887

St. Peters Executive Center
5600 Mexico Road • Suite #1
St. Peters, MO 63376-1660



Disability Rights Office
Consumer Information Bureau
Federal Communications Commission, Room 6C-427
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 21 1991
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

